arrangement of hours leads to evasion. It is worth noting that till 1929 women worked in the mines and will not be finally excluded till July, 1939. The miners are for the most part primitive people and there is grave danger that they may be exploited. As far as I know, there is little or no trade-unionism among them.

The same must be said about the plantations. Here, too, recruitment is generally from rather primitive people and among peasants who are brought from great distances. Conditions will depend very much on the individual planter., as the plantations are in remote parts. Recruits to the plantations used to be indentured, but at different times the rules of contract have been revised, and since 1926 no labourer in Assam can be criminally punished for breach of contract. Many of the coolies are given small plots of land and thus are agriculturalists as well as workers. I have heard of serious abuses of power on plantations in more than one part by the *kamgani* or contractor and the general evils of "jobbery" seem common. There is little control of the planters and they possess an almost feudal power over their employees. Above all, it must be remembered that in Assam particularly the workers are so far from their homes that it is well-nigh impossible for them to leave. But in some cases they are recruited for a fixed term of years and repatriated. It is essential that in all cases the right of repatriation should be granted. Wages would seem to be very low, but there are gifts in kind as well and land; but exploitation is always possible and there is no one to prevent it. Any kind of organisation of the plantation workers would be frowned upon and indeed it would be impossible "for a trade-union organiser to gain access to the plantations.[1]

[1] The Director of Public Health of Punjab writes in reference to the 1,500 load coolies of Simla that most of them lived in one room, low and unventi-lated; sometimes fifteen or twenty people all huddled together on the floor. Cooking was done in the same room.